

Immunization Action News

From The Office of the Director, National Immunization Program (NIP)
For Immunization Project Directors, Program Managers, and Partners

Vol. 3 No. 5 August 1996

Memorandum

In this issue...

DTaP Vaccine Approved
for Infants.....Page 1

New York State
Physician Conference.....Page 2

Four by Two:
A Texas Puppet Play.....Page 3

Immunization Meeting.....Page 4

FDA Approves DTaP Vaccine for Use in Infants

ON JULY 31, 1996, THE FOOD and Drug Administration licensed Connaught Laboratories' (Swiftwater, PA) combined diphtheria-tetanus toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP), under the trade name Tripedia®. The vaccine is licensed for the initial four doses of the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccination series at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 15-20 months of age, to provide protection against pertussis, an especially serious disease in infants, as well as diphtheria and tetanus.

The DTP vaccine, which contains whole-cell, killed pertussis bacterium, often causes adverse reactions, such as redness or swelling, fever and, very rarely, other systemic symptoms. The DTaP vaccine, which contains only parts of the pertussis bacterium, is effective in lowering the rate of these adverse reactions while maintaining a high protective efficacy against pertussis disease.

A case-control study in Germany, involving more than 16,000 infants,

75% of whom received the DTaP vaccine, followed an immunizing schedule similar to that in the U.S. Protective efficacy of DTaP was shown to be 80% (95% Confidence Interval, 59%-90%).

DTaP Causes Fewer Adverse Reactions in Infants.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases conducted additional trials in Sweden and other European countries on similar acellular pertussis vaccines. Results also indicate this type of vaccine is highly effective in infants (69% to 80% efficacy) while causing fewer of the common side effects.

Tripedia® is one of two DTaP vaccines already approved for children as fourth and fifth doses following the three standard DTP doses. Lederle's DTaP is the second. This vaccine is not currently licensed for the initial three doses in infants younger than 15 months of age. The Advisory Committee on

Immunization Practices and the Committee on Infectious Diseases, American Academy of Pediatrics, recommend the use of the Tripedia® vaccine for the first four doses of the routine series of vaccinations for infants beginning the vaccination series. Studies are now being planned to determine fifth-dose recommendations.

Until an adequate supply of the new vaccine is available, recommendations are to first ensure infants are vaccinated on time and for physicians to use discretion when using their current supply of DTaP. Children who have begun their immunizations with DTP should still receive the DTaP vaccine as the fourth and fifth doses.

CDC has begun negotiations for a new Federal contract to purchase the Connaught DTaP vaccine for doses one through five. The Connaught DTaP vaccine for doses one through three should be available to public health clinics in several months.

Contributed by CDC's National Immunization Program staff.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service

The Nation's Prevention Agency

CDC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

New York State physician conference

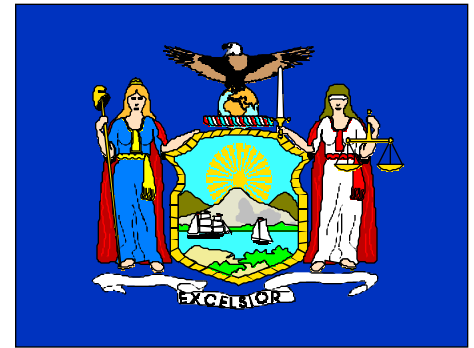
IF THE YEAR 2000 GOALS ARE TO BE met in New York State, it is essential to reach private physicians, who serve approximately 80% of the state's children. Immunization data from retrospective surveys and other research studies indicate the need for educational interventions, which are designed to update physicians on immunization policies and practices, development of new vaccines, and issues surrounding vaccine delivery.

In an attempt to begin a dialogue with private physicians, a one-and-one-half-day conference entitled *Immunization Reform in the Era of Health Care Reform* was planned. The purpose of this conference was to impart information with the goal of gaining the support and cooperation of private physicians. In order to accomplish this goal, the Immunization Program sought cosponsorship from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP), the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY), and the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO). The cosponsors actively participated in the planning process and were consulted regarding topics, presenters, and venue.

From the start, the planning committee realized that getting physicians to attend this conference would be the largest obstacle they would have to overcome if the conference was to be a success. Therefore, the intent was to draw physicians to the conference with nationally known speakers who

would provide the most up-to-date information regarding vaccine issues pertinent to physicians and their practices. To accomplish this, the Immunization Program sought the assistance of the cosponsors in determining which topics and speakers would appeal to their members. Another very important consideration was the venue, which had to be centrally located, accessible by train and airplane and appealing enough to take physicians away from their practices. With this in mind, a national historic landmark resort hotel was chosen as the ideal location. Since the conference involved an overnight stay, the planning committee decided to schedule the conference on a Friday and Saturday. This would enable participants to extend their stay for the weekend and not miss more than one day in their offices.

In an attempt to increase physician participation and to ensure that the information obtained at the conference was delivered to those physicians who could not attend, it was decided that one prominent physician from each county would be extended an invitation to attend the conference and have his or her travel expenses reimbursed. This invitation would be extended by the local health commissioner with the understanding that the selected physician would be responsible for sharing the information presented at the conference with his or her colleagues through local meetings, etc. The selection of these physicians was dependent upon whether the physicians were able to influence the immunization practices of their



NEW YORK

peers. Also, members from cosponsored groups were extended the same invitation with the same understanding and commitment.

The conference opened with welcoming remarks by the New York State Department of Health Immunization Program and each cosponsor. A keynote address entitled *Prevention: A Key Component of Health Care Reform* was delivered by William Corr, Esq., Deputy Assistant, Department of Health and Human Services. The keynote was followed by a plenary session and the following topics were presented: legal issues related to immunization, the National Vaccine Injury Program, adult immunization issues, and immunization's role in health care reform. A luncheon followed this plenary and included two presentations. The first presentation highlighted the survey results of physician immunization practices in New York State and was followed by a presentation addressing the harmonized immunization schedule. The afternoon consisted of workshop sessions which addressed the following topics: research findings regarding the delivery of immunizations in physician's offices and emergency departments,

See **Physician's**, page 4 p

Four by Two: A puppet play

THE SHOTS ACROSS TEXAS initiative was launched by Texas Commissioner Dr. David Smith in May of 1993. At that time, only approximately 30 to 40 percent of children under the age of two were fully immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases. The goal of the initiative is to reach an immunization rate of 90 percent by December of 1996.

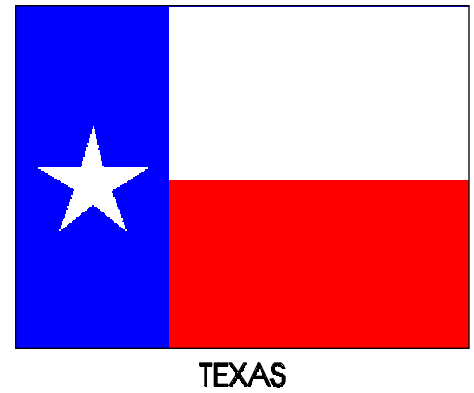
Shots Across Texas is employing many strategies to increase immunization rates. For example, we are immunizing children in Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program clinics. The board of the Texas Department of Human Services has recently mandated that recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) must be fully immunized in order to receive full AFDC benefits. We have launched and advertising campaign with television, radio, print, and outdoor media to educate parents about the importance of childhood immunizations. Additionally, we have organized grassroot volunteers to find local solutions to problems leading to low immunization rates.

As one strategy to increase rates, Shots Across Texas has decided to model successful efforts of the environmental movement and antismoking campaigns. These groups have educated elementary school children about their issues and recruited these children to take their messages home in order to effect change in their parents' behavior. Many a parent has been persuaded to stop smoking or to begin recycling because of pressure from their well-educated children.

Shots Across Texas plans to use a muppet-like puppet show to educate school children about the importance of ensuring that their baby brothers and sisters under the age of two have all had their immunizations. Children who see the puppet show learn how many visits to the doctor a baby must make in order to be fully immunized, and they will learn the basic concept of immunizations. These children will then take the immunization information home to their parents in the form of a handout (with muppet characters' pictures drawn on it), and they will be able to sing a little song to their parents which they learned during the puppet play. Parents will receive a clear message from their children about how important it is to take the baby in the family to the doctor for several visits to receive all necessary immunizations.

The Shots Across Texas program is collaborating with the University of Texas (UT) Performing Arts Center and Department of Fine Arts to develop the puppet show. The title, *Four by Two: A Puppet Play*, refers to the fact that it takes four immunization visits by age two for a baby to be fully immunized and protected from dangerous diseases.

Shots Across Texas and UT have manufactured 12 complete puppet sets, each set contains the muppet-like puppets, a simple stage setup, a professionally recorded sound track with original music and sound, and a custom-made travel trunk for all these items. Each public health region in the state will have a puppet set to use in elementary schools and at health fairs and other special events for children throughout their



health region.

The puppet kit also contains an instructional videotape for volunteers who wish to "stage" the puppet show. The instructional video will feature a professional performance of the play, followed by specific "how-to" suggestions from professional puppeteers on how to use the puppets, how to set up the stage, etc. A professional videotape of the play will also be offered to cable television channels that feature children's programming, to the Texas Education Agency T-NET (television network to public schools), to the Texas Tech Health Network, and to Cable HealthCare Corporation, a company that shows videotapes to hospital patients, etc. Corporate sponsors are acknowledged for their contribution to the project on the videotapes.

For more information on *Four by Two: A Puppet Play*, please contact the Immunization Division, Texas Department of Health at (512) 458-7284.

*Contributed by Brad Prescott
Immunization Division
Texas Department of Health*

Physician's immunization meeting yields results

Continued from page 2

immunization registries, and a demonstration of immunization tracking and recall software.

The second half day of the conference included three panel presentations. The first panel addressed vaccine research and development and included representatives from the following pharmaceutical companies: Merck, SmithKline Beecham, Lederle-Praxis and Connaught. The second panel provided updates on the following vaccines: varicella, acellular pertussis, hepatitis A and B, pneumococcal, HIV, and lyme. In the last panel presentation State and federal representatives addressed the Vaccines for Children Program.

The conference closed with remarks provided by Mark Rapoport, M.D., Commissioner of Health, Westchester County Health Department. His closing remarks encouraged participants to share the information with their colleagues.

The conference program was accredited for 11 hours of Category I Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits by the Medical Society of the State of New York and nine prescribed hours by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

The conference evaluations reflected the participants' feelings that the conference was worthwhile and should

be held on an annual basis. The Medical Society of the State of New York devoted the centerfold of an issue of the *News of New York* to the immunization conference.

As a result of the conference, new relationships have formed with private physicians throughout the state and these partnerships have fostered new immunization initiatives and efforts with private physicians.

*Contributed by Judith LeComb
New York State Department of Health*

Editor's note: The *Immunization Action News* is seeking articles to highlight successful state and local immunization programs and initiatives. Submit articles to NIP Information Center, CDC NIP MS E-52, 1600 Clifton Road N.E., Atlanta, GA 30333. Please send a computer disk and hard copy of your article. Call (404) 639-8792 for more information.

The *Immunization Action News* memorandum from the National Immunization Program (NIP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is produced using Adobe PageMaker 6.01 for Windows and is printed on recycled paper. It is available free of cost to anyone interested in immunization, communicable disease, and/or infection control programs. Materials may be reproduced without permission. For further information on editorial content, layout, and/or design, please write or fax: NIP Information Center (see above). To add a name or make a change to the mailing list: NIP Information Center. Address: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NIP (Mailstop E-34), 1600 Clifton Road N.E., Atlanta, GA 30333. Fax number: (404) 639-8828.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Centers for Disease Control
& Prevention
Atlanta, GA 30333

Return After Five Days

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
PHS/CDC
Permit No. G-284

